



www.winchester-iwla.org

October 2020

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

Shoot on Steel!

Keep October 17th open on your calendars. The SASP Team will host members who wish to shoot on the same steel targets against time that they do in their National, State and Local Virtual Match competitions. It is their way of saying a "BIG THANKS" to the Chapter for its support of their activities. Range Time: 10:00 to 3:00.

Come try your skills and compete against the individual team member times. Bring your own ammo--22 LR standard velocity and 9MM 115 grain lead cartridges only. We have a small supply of .22LR available for sale at \$6 per box of 50 rounds. We also have .22 pistols and rifles available to shoot if you do not have your own firearm. Donations are encouraged and appreciated.

Guest fees are waived! Members may bring one guest to this event.

Shotgun Range Hours Extended!

We wanted to try some different hours for our shooting start times. For now, we will be open **Saturday 10AM -2PM** and changing **Sunday to 1PM -3PM**. We will look at the Saturday time once daylight savings time ends and will update if we change.





Winchester Newsletter

Woods, water, wildlife - our heritage, our responsibility

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October 2020

FROM THE EDITOR



I certainly got a lot of feedback on the last newsletter. I may have gone a tad overboard reporting out the minutes from the various committees and meetings. They are not exciting in person; how much less so to read about it?

This month I will provide the highlights. If anyone wants details, check out the website or contact the committee chairs directly. Or, better yet, volunteer and join a committee!

Finally, I am still tweaking the format and order of things. I got some ideas of where things should go and what things should just go. As always, I welcome suggestions, criticisms, and ideas. And if you have something you would like to share with the Chapter, send it to me. You can always remain anonymous, but please feel free to share your IWLA stories and memories, favorite recipes, and any tips or tricks you have learned about outdoor sports.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS'

REPORT

Your Board met on September 3rd. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 1st, 2020, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Treasurer reported that the financials are in good shape for the Chapter, but that good stewardship must in all areas be practiced. We do so with the environment; it is equally important to do so with our finances.

New Member Orientation was held on September 20th, bringing our total membership to 830.

The Membership Meeting, scheduled for October 15th at 7 p.m. in the Chapter house, will have a guest speaker this month – Wayne Smith with [Trophy Treestands](#). Wayne is a Winchester resident with over 25 years of hunting experience with a passion for bowhunting. Wayne is the manager for Trophy Treestands, a locally based treestand company that is leading the treestand industry in safety. Wayne enjoys outdoor activities to include archery 3D shoots, hiking, mountain biking, fishing, and, of course, hunting. Wayne is a member of the Mossy Oak Pro Staff and an active committee member of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTFF). Join us for the meeting and meet Wayne!

The Board discussed opening the IWLA porch to Boy Scout troops who cannot meet in their charter organization's spaces due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Board unanimously approved allowing BSA Troop 159 to use the IWLA porch on Mondays, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., as this is currently the only troop looking for an alternative meeting place.

Another group looking for a meeting place is the Blue Ridge Singers for their monthly board meetings. The Board unanimously approved their use one Sunday a month, after 6 p.m., to use the chapter house. The group said they would like to sing at our December Membership meeting, assuming COVID-19 restrictions allow it.

There are a couple vacancies on the Board. Patty Nunn had to step down as Secretary for personal reasons, and we need a Facilities Director who can coordinate landscaping,

building maintenance, and cleaning. Please consider volunteering some of your very valuable time to supporting your Chapter. It is only as strong as its volunteers.

Richard Gorman stepped down from his various roles as he is moving out of the area. I would like to extend a heartfelt and sincere Thank You! to Richard for his dedicated service to our Chapter.

LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

The IWLA Endowment Grant was approved for \$12,000. Most of these funds will be used in preparation for the spring camporee and infrastructure work needed to be done to support that event. The Lake and Conservation Director and the Treasurer will track the funds. In addition to the money, an estimated 800 volunteer-hours will be needed.

The Lake Committee purchased water test kits and pulled the first water sample on September 12th from the shore north of the stream inlet. The test measures nitrates, nitrites, pH, general water hardness (GH), carbonate and bicarbonate levels (KH), and ammonia.

Basically, pH measures the acidity or alkalinity of the water. Fish like it fairly neutral, around 7. The higher the measure of KH, the better the water can buffer the pH and prevent wide pH swings that are harmful to fish. GH, on the other hand, measures the amount of calcium and magnesium ions and lets us know if the water has sufficient minerals to promote healthy fish growth.

Nitrite, nitrate, and ammonia measure the amount of biological waste material in the water. The safe measure for nitrite and ammonia levels is 0.00 parts per million (ppm). Ideal range for nitrate is 20-60 ppm for a pond or aquarium. Nitrate levels become toxic above 120 ppm.

RANGE REPORTS

The Board and Range Committee are reviewing the disciplinary process for range violations, and the current Range Safety Rules and Standard Operating Procedure to



alleviate discrepancies and ensure clarity. Final review is set for November 2020.

The Chapter needs donations to help with all the ranges. If you can help, please do so. Mark your donation as specific to the ranges or a specific range. Donations of \$50 or more will be given a donation receipt for income tax purposes.

Along with monetary donations, your Chapter needs volunteers to help at the ranges, both for workdays at the ranges and for RSOs/ROs at both the R-P Range and Shotgun Range. We also need a lot of volunteer help to develop the new target archery range for it to become operative in the next year. If you have an interest, please contact us by e-mail: range@winchester-iwla.org.

Finally, the NRA First Step Shotgun course scheduled for October has been rescheduled for Spring, 2021. The Home Firearms Safety course and both Metallic and Shot Shell Reloading courses will be rescheduled for the first quarter of next year.

OTHER NEWS

FIRST ANNUAL PANFISH WRANGLE

The first annual panfish wrangle was held on September 26th and everyone had a great time fishing! The lake and conservation team served hot dogs and soda and the fish were biting! We had several new families join the fun as guests and I am happy to report that the young men beat the old timers and cleaned up on the prizes! The fundraiser ended up making money for the chapter and we will add



this to our events to get families and kids out on the lake fishing and enjoying the outdoors! Special thanks to Harold Whitacre and Toby and Fran Norris for their assistance with the event.

SCOUTS TO THE RESCUE!

The massive rainstorm that hit the area in mid-September caused three trees to fall in the campground with the largest being over five stories tall. Boy Scout Troop 159 assisted with the cleanup of the trees during their recent camping trip. With their assistance we were able to re-open the trail along the Opequon creek. The scouts cleared out all the branches and downed limbs then manually hauled most of the cut logs into the campground area where we will be



able to split and season the wood.

Very special thanks to Chapter members Charlie Weiss, Toby Norris, Jamie Wade, Tim Walton, Nathan Walton, and Assistant Scoutmaster Dan Nakagawa for their help in cutting up the fallen trees.

LAKE AND CONSERVATION WORKDAY

The Lake and Conservation team completed a workday on September 12th with an amazing amount of work completed. The team started cutting up a downed tree and cleaned much of the brush and tall grass from around the lake. Team members also attacked the black willows and



completed collection of our water samples for the lake. Outstanding effort and thanks to the team of fine Ikes that assisted, including Terry Henry, Patty Nunn, Zac Bowers and Gerald Crowell. The next workday will be Saturday November 7th.

CAMP ROCK ENON OUTREACH

BSA Camp Rock Enon reached out to our chapter to assist with their Cub Scout Adventure Day on September 26. With short notice, Jeff McCall answered the call and represented the chapter running the fishing events at the lake. Jeff assisted 75 kids aged 5-10 fishing throughout the day and we received kudos from the camp for his amazing work. It is great to see other organizations reaching out to our chapter to assist with conservation work as a valued community partner.



10th in the Chapter house. The course cost is \$85 and includes texts, supplementary materials, continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks and drinks throughout the day. Four seats remain.

It has been a little over a month since we opened the 5-station shooting stand and we want to thank all our members and their guests who have shot with us. Some of you have returned every Saturday and keep getting better. We are still waiting for our first “25” straight so do not wear your best hat when you accomplish this goal.

We would like to let all members know that the range has “try guns” for non-shotgun owners who would like to learn how to break some clay targets. Even experienced shooters remember the thrill of breaking that first clay. The guns were a grant from NRA, so we encourage you to come out and “take a shot”. We have both 20ga for youth and smaller shooters along with 12ga for those that prefer a larger, longer gun. If you have never shot, we are setting up a training station along with instruction on how to break the clays.

One of our goals this fall and winter is training interested shotgun shooters to become “Shotgun Range RSO”. The more RSO’s we have the more often the range can be opened for your shooting enjoyment. If you are interested in becoming an RSO for the shotgun range, please send an email to Rick Hill, the shotgun range manger, at rhill1105@aol.com. Our advice before you consider this is to become a Rifle-Pistol Range RSO first, as gun safety is paramount for all types of shooting sports.

USDA UPDATE

The USDA project to restore several areas of the chapter to natural habitat was revived and will proceed in 2021. The program will pay the chapter to restore several areas including the pasture behind the dam, the outer areas of the shotgun field, and 16 acres around the campground. These restored areas will have invasive plant species removed and be replanted with native flowering and pollinating plants. Although it will cost the chapter (herbicide, seed) to restore the areas, it will be an overall net gain.

SHOOTING SPORTS

Want to improve your pistol shooting skills? There is an NRA Basics of Pistol Shooting course scheduled for October



SHOOTING TIP OF THE MONTH

What is the proper stance while shooting sporting clays? Should my knees be bent slightly, or should my legs be straight with no movement in my lower body?

The basic shooting stance for shotgun shooting is similar to any other fundamental athletic stance used in sports, such as boxing, tennis, football, and martial arts. The shooter should stand comfortably with feet about shoulder width apart. The right-handed shooter should stand with the left foot slightly forward, pointing generally towards the anticipated break point for the target. The knees should not be locked but should not be overly bent either. The shooter's weight should be placed on the front foot (60/40 or 55/45), knees slightly bent, head forward ("nose over toes"), shoulders directly over feet and waist slightly rearward ("buckle back") such that the shooter's balance is slightly forward. This stance provides a comfortable starting position from which the student can move with the target.

"Feel the Gun, See the Break, Smell the Powder"

WHAT IS HALLOWEEN?

Last month I highlighted Izaak Walton, and learned a bit about our namesake. This being October, I thought exploring a little into the history of Halloween could be interesting.

Most people know about All Hallow's Eve, from which we get the name Halloween, and that it started when Pope Gregory III designated November 1st as All Saints Day back in the eighth century. But what about the rest of it?

The ancient Celts, more than two thousand years ago, celebrated *Samhain* (pronounced *sah-win* or *sow-in*), which means "summer's end," to mark the end of summer and harvest and the beginning of winter. The Celts believed the line between the living and dead was blurred and the ghosts of the dead return.

By the middle of the first century, Rome controlled most of the Celtic territory and introduced their own festivals which coincided with Samhain – Feralia, to commemorate the passing of the dead; and Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruits and trees.

It was not until AD 998 that the first hints at what we now celebrate as Halloween began. All Souls' Day, the day after All Saints' Day, is much more like Samhain. The monks at the monastery created the tradition of dressing in costume, and it quickly caught on. It is likely the monks were commemorating the story from 2 Maccabees about the martyrdom of seven brothers at the hand of the Seleucid king Antiochus IV. Many believe children would dress in scary costumes in remembrance of these deaths.

The tradition of trick-or-treat is quite recent. As far back as the 16th century, the Scots and Irish would go house to house to collect food, some of them wearing costumes while doing so. When Charles Schulz included characters trick-or-treating in 1951, and Walt Disney produced a Donald Duck short called "Trick or Treat," the tradition was cemented into Americana.



Tucson Daily Citizen, Tucson AZ. 10/29/51

FINAL THOUGHTS

Your Chapter exists solely on the backs of its volunteers. Dues help but are wholly insufficient to get the work done. Throughout this newsletter you will see calls for help. If possible, see if you can't pitch in. There are Board vacancies and weekend work that needs to be done. Even if only a couple hours, it helps. Thank you.



WANTED

The Chapter needs volunteers to assist with wood cutting work at the Chapter

We manage 100+ acres of forest and always need assistance with cutting fallen trees, splitting wood and clearing downfall.

Please contact
brian_Callahan@winchester-iwla.org
to be added to the contact team for wood cutting work.